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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/597,907

09/12/2006

Hermann Stief

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EXAMINER

OMGBA, ESSAMA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3726

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/08/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

info@lniplaw.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/597,907		STIEF ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Essama Omgba		3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/11/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because line 9, "Figure", should be deleted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 3, line 4, page 4, lines 8, 18, 25 and 32 and page 5, line 1, the invention has been disclosed by reference to the claim numbers. This is not a proper disclosure as claim numbers and content may change throughout prosecution; and on page 6, line 15, reference numeral "12.1" should read --12.2--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the lateral surface" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Further the phrase "in particular" in line 3 renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singer (DE 100 43 840) in view of Kniepkamp et al. (US Patent 2,999,707).

With regards to claim 1, Singer discloses a deflecting roller for a traction mechanism drive composed of an annular body 5 against the lateral face of which a traction mechanism bears 6, having a rolling bearing which is composed of an inner ring 7 and an outer ring 3, wherein the outer ring is enclosed by a holding bore of the annular body, and the deflecting roller is fixed to a screw-on surface by means of a fastening screw 8 which extends through a holding bore of the inner ring and a holding bore of a spacer sleeve 9, wherein the distance between the screw-on surface and the deflecting roller is determined by the axial extent of the spacer sleeve which is held against the deflecting roller by means of a transport securing means, wherein a guide collar 13 of the spacer sleeve is held by the holding bore of the inner ring (fig. 1). Singer does not disclose a recess on the guide collar, an elastic holding element inserted in the recess such that the elastic holding element bears against the holding bore of the inner ring under preload. However Kniepkamp teaches a collar 1 held against an inner bore of a casing 5 wherein the collar includes a recess with an elastic holding element 12

Art Unit: 3726

inserted in the recess such that the elastic holding element bears against the holding bore of the casing under preload, see figure 1. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have modified the guide collar of Singer to include a recess with an elastic holding element inserted in the recess such that the elastic holding element bears against the holding bore of the of the inner ring under preload, in light of the teachings of Kniepkamp, in order to provide an inner ring/ guide collar subassembly.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, see column 1, lines 46-52 of Kniepkamp. Applicant should note that it is within the skill level of a worker in the art to select an appropriate holding element.

Regarding claims 4, 5 and 7, see figure 1 of Singer.

Regarding claim 6, Applicant should note that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have produced the spacer sleeve from whatever material was expedient as a matter of obvious design choice since it has been held to be within the general skill level of a worker in the art to select a known material for its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. See also *Ballas Liquidating Co. v. Allied industries of Kansa, Inc.* (DC Kans) 205 USPQ 331.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3726

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6:30, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Essama Omgba/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3726

eo
March 1, 2010